WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated human serum albumin having at least a one-amino acid truncation at its n-terminal end that is sufficient to reduce the albumin's affinity to trace metals.

2. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 1 wherein the truncation is a single amino acid.

3. An isolated human serum albumin having at least one mutation at its n-terminal end sufficient to cause steric hindrance at the binding region VI and thereby reduce or eliminate the albumin's affinity to trace metals.

4. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 3 wherein the mutation comprises an elongation or insertion.

5. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 3 wherein the mutation is at the histidine at position 3 of the amino acid chain.

6. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 3 wherein the mutation is made in binding region VI.

7. A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising the serum albumin according to claim 1 and a physiologically acceptable vehicle, carrier or excipient.

8. An isolated serum albumin according to Claim 1 having the amino acid sequence of unmodified human serum albumin except at the N-terminal end wherein the sequence begins with Ala-His-Lys-Ser-Glu.

9. An isolated serum albumin according to Claim 1 having the amino acid sequence of unmodified human serum albumin except at the N-terminal end wherein the sequence begins with His-Lys-Ser-Glu.

10. An isolated serum albumin according to Claim 1 having the amino acid sequence of unmodified human serum albumin except at the N-terminal end wherein the sequence begins with Lys-Ser-Glu.

11. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 1 wherein the truncation is achieved through recombinant means.

12. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 1 that is produced using a transgenic plant.

13. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 1 wherein the truncation is achieved through physical or chemical means.

14. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 3 wherein the mutation is achieved through recombinant means.

15. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 3 wherein the mutation is achieved through physical or chemical means.

16. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for the amino acid sequence of claim 1 or degenerates thereof.

17. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for the amino acid sequence of claim 3 or degenerates thereof.

18. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for the amino acid sequence of claim 8 or degenerates thereof.

19. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for the amino acid sequence of claim 9 or degenerates thereof.

20. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for the amino acid sequence of claim 10 or degenerates thereof.

21. An isolated human serum albumin according to claim 3 wherein the amino-acid sequence at the n-terminal end has the sequence Glu-Ala-Glu-Phe-Asp-Ala-His.